

Agency Legislative Budget								
Budget Item	Base Budget Fiscal 2000	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2002	New Proposals Fiscal 2002	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2002	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2003	New Proposals Fiscal 2003	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2003	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 02-03
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Operating Expenses	10,539	4,461	0	15,000	4,461	0	15,000	30,000
Total Costs	\$10,539	\$4,461	\$0	\$15,000	\$4,461	\$0	\$15,000	\$30,000
State/Other Special	10,539	4,461	0	15,000	4,461	0	15,000	30,000
Total Funds	\$10,539	\$4,461	\$0	\$15,000	\$4,461	\$0	\$15,000	\$30,000

Agency Description

The Montana Chiropractic Legal Panel reviews potential and actual malpractice claims against chiropractors to confirm reasonable inference of malpractice. The panel provides fair disposition of well-founded claims. The panel, consisting of three chiropractors and three attorneys, review every potential or actual claim. The Montana Chiropractic Association appoints a director to manage the panel.

Summary of Legislative Action

The total budget for the Chiropractic Legal Panel for the 2003 biennium is \$30,000. This is an 8.2 percent increase above the 2001 biennial budget. The increase was provided to fund additional legal investigations.

Other Legislation

House Bill 98 – The balance in the state special revenue account for the Montana Chiropractic Legal Panel will be moved into a trust account as of June 30, 2001. This will be called the Pretrial Review Fund. The panel's budget and funding will continue in HB 2.

Agency Budget Comparison								
Budget Item	Base Budget Fiscal 2000	Executive Budget Fiscal 2002	Legislative Budget Fiscal 2002	Leg – Exec. Difference Fiscal 2002	Executive Budget Fiscal 2003	Legislative Budget Fiscal 2003	Leg – Exec. Difference Fiscal 2003	Biennium Difference Fiscal 02-03
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Operating Expenses	10,539	15,000	15,000	0	15,000	15,000	0	0
Total Costs	\$10,539	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$0
State/Other Special	10,539	15,000	15,000	0	15,000	15,000	0	0
Total Funds	\$10,539	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$0

Executive Budget Comparison

The legislature approved the agency budget as presented.

Funding

The Montana Chiropractic Legal Panel is funded with state special revenue funds derived from annual assessments. This amount is set annually by the director and is assessed equally to all chiropractors.

Present Law Adjustments										
-----Fiscal 2002-----						-----Fiscal 2003-----				
	FTE	General	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	FTE	General	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
Fixed Costs					2					4
Total Statewide Present Law Adjustments					\$2					\$4
DP 1 - Panel Operating Costs	0.00	0	4,459	0	4,459	0.00	0	4,457	0	4,457
Total Other Present Law Adjustments	0.00	\$0	\$4,459	\$0	\$4,459	0.00	\$0	\$4,457	\$0	\$4,457
Grand Total All Present Law Adjustments					\$4,461					\$4,461

Present Law Adjustments

The "Present Law Adjustments" table shows the primary changes to the adjusted base budget made by the legislature. "Statewide Present Law" adjustments are standard categories of adjustments made to all agencies. Legislative decisions on these items were applied globally to all agencies. The other numbered adjustments in the table correspond to the narrative descriptions.

DP 1 - Panel Operating Costs - All panel functions are conducted through consulting and other professional services. The panel requested, and the legislature approved, an increase for consulting and professional services, travel, and audit fees in anticipation of increased activity. Activity depends on the number of cases filed, which cannot always be predicted.